dates of commissioning are indicated in Annex-I. (*See* Appendix 189, Annexure No. 100).

Construction of power generation projects

†4062. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA :
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of power generation projects are under construction in the country;

(b) if so, the number of these projects at the end of December, 1999;

(c) the number of such projects which are running five years behind their original time schedule; and

(d) the generation capacity of these projects together with the amount incurred on their construction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 24 on going and TEC cleared thermal power projects of an aggregate capacity of 10962.59 MW and 61 sanctioned hydro-electric power projects with a total capacity of 15124.95 MW were under construction in the country as on 31st December, 1999.

(c) and (d) 3 thermal power projects and 34 hydro-electric power projects under construction have been delayed by five years or more and details alongwith expenditure incurred in respect of these projects are given in Annex. (*See* Appendix 189, Annexure No. 101).

Shortage of Power due to pitiable condition of SEBs

†4063. DR. D. MASTHAN :
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the shortage of power in the country is due to the pitiable financial condition of the State Electricity Boards;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard;

(c) the percentage of power generated by electricity boards in the country; and

(d) the assessment of the present capacity of electricity generation in these State Electricity Boards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The poor financial health of the State Electricity Boards is one of the reasons for shortage of electricity in the country. The Chief Ministers'/Power Ministers' Conference held on 26-2-2000 took note of the impending difficult situation facing the power supply industry in the country due to continuing decline in commercial viability of the sector as a whole. It noted *inter alia*, the fact that :—

1. Outstanding dues of CPSUs have been increasing and have now reached Rs. 23,000 crores. This trend if maintained would adversely affect their current operations apart from inhibiting their future expansion plans.

2. Financial closure for private power projects is becoming increasingly difficult.

3. The states are unable to finance new projects on their own.

After taking into account the problems facing the power sector, the Power Ministers' conference resolved that with the intention of achieving commercial viability and providing power at reasonable rate to all, reform must be undertaken with determination, vigour and sense of urgency.

(c) The electricity produced by the power stations in the State Sector was 54.2% of the total electricity product in the country during the period April, 1999 to March, 2000.

(d) The total installed generation capacity in the country in the State Sector as on 31-3-2000 was 59279.73 MW (excluding the generation capacity in private sector). The total installed capacity in Private Sector was 8555.64 MW.